

A survey of birds of Annobón Island, Equatorial Guinea: preliminary report

Jaime Pérez del Val

Much of our basic information on the birds of Annobón comes from a visit to the island by C.H. Fry, in 1959, whose work also summarised previous data. In the last 40 years the only new information was obtained during a one-day visit in 1989, and some unpublished data on captured birds from 1987. According to this, Annobón holds 16 breeding birds, of which ten are terrestrial and six marine species. Another four species appear to be regular migrants.

The main focus of the recent visit was to discover the status of those species of high conservation significance, including the two island endemics: Annobón White-eye *Zosterops griseovirescens* and Annobón Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone (rufiventer) smithii*. Two other species were subject to special attention — São Tomé Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba malberbii*, which only occurs on Annobón, São Tomé and Príncipe, and the Annobón race of African Scops Owl *Otus scops feae*.

A final important question concerned the Black Noddy *Anous minutus*, whose population on Annobón was previously estimated at 13,500 pairs.

This was considered to be more than 1% of the species' world population and made the colony of conservation importance.

The preliminary results demonstrate that both Annobón White-eye and Annobón Paradise Flycatcher are common and widespread throughout most of the island. The São Tomé Bronze-naped Pigeon is also common, although its habitat is more restricted than that of the two previous species. The Black Noddy population is smaller than the 1959 estimate, although the decline is more apparent than real and is a result of earlier over-estimates of breeding numbers.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* was discovered to be a recently arrived breeding species and three vagrants were added to the island list: Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* and a bee-eater *Merops* sp.



Supported by ABC Conservation Fund

Advertise in the *Bulletin of the ABC*

All advertisements must be sent **prepaid** (cheques made payable to the African Bird Club) as camera-ready copy, bromide/film or on floppy disk to:

Moira Hargreaves, 30 Highfield Road, Tring, Herts, HP23 4DX, UK.

If adverts are sent on floppy disk we can accept Pagemaker 6, CorelDraw7 files or unformatted ASCII text files and uncompressed TIF graphics files. If adverts are prepared on an Apple Mac the diskette should be formatted for PC.

The current rates are as follows and are based on a print run of 1,500 copies. These rates are guaranteed for the September 2001 *Bull ABC*.

Please address all queries to Moira Hargreaves at the above address.

African Bird Club Advertising Rates

Black & white

Full-page	£95	(210 x 145mm)
Half-page	£60	(100 x 145mm)
Quarter-page	£40	(100 x 70mm)
Eighth-page	£25	(50 x 70mm)

Colour

Please contact Moira Hargreaves on Tel/Fax: 01442 823624. E-mail: moira.y.hargreaves@btinternet.com (or write to the address given above left.)

Copy deadlines

Spring Bulletin	15 January
Autumn Bulletin	05 June

